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The History of City Hall, Part III

Current City Hall building combin

(Editor's Note: This is the third in a series of articles by S. Robert Powell of Carbondale on the history of Carbondale's three City Halls.)

On August 2, 1892, the plan for a new Carbondale City Hall that was drawn up by Binghamton architect, Truman I. Lacey, was accepted by the Common Council and the Select Council, meeting in joint session. Immediately thereafter, City Engineer Frick notified Lacey of the acceptance by Carbondale's legislators of his proposed plan for a new city hall. On August 4, 1892, Lacey arrived in Carbondale to confer with the public building committee on the work to be done.

The outline drawing submitted by Lacey for Carbondale's third city hall is shown here. The three-story wing and the tower were erected in 1892-1894. The two-story wing is the 1869 City Hall. When Lacey designed the new City Hall, he created a new roof and a new interior for the old City Hall, and then had the old building joined to the three-story wing and the tower. The result has the present-day Carbondale City Hall.

On September 12, 1892, the contract for the construction of the three-story wing and the tower of the new building was awarded to W. D. Stevens of Binghamton. Also bidding for that contract were George H. Tryon and P. Byrne & Co., both of Carbondale. W. D. Stevens subsequently contracted with Frank Carlucci of Scranton to supply the dressed bluestone and trimmings for the new building from his quarry at Nicholson.

On September 15, 1892, City Engineer Frick placed the ground stakes that formed the outline of the three-story wing and the tower. A great stone was removed from in front of the old building, four shade trees were cut down and the fence in front of the 1869 City Hall was removed. On September 16, W. D. Stevens broke ground for the foundation of the three-story wing and the tower. On September 30, the first stone of the foundation was placed in a corner of the tower.

Work on the three-story wing and the tower progressed rapidly, and both were under roof by the spring of 1893. On March 29, 1893, at the close of business, Postmaster Yarrington had the Post Office furniture moved into the new Post Office on the ground floor of the three-story wing (where the Police Department is now located).

The contractor who, in 1894, executed Lacey's design for the new interior and the new roof of the old City Hall and who joined its eastern side to the three-story wing, at a cost of $3,500 was George H. Tryon of Carbondale. Tryon was engaged by Lacey to do this work when G. D. Stevens, the contractor who erected the three-story wing and the tower, ceased work on his contract in the fall of 1893.

The 1869 City Hall had two stories. Lacey's design for the 1892-1894 City Hall called for the addition of a third story to the old City Hall. In accordance with Lacey's plan, construction on the proposed third story was begun in late 1893. When the City Council drew up the budget for 1894, however, no funds were allocated for the completion of the third story of the old City Hall. As a result, construction on the third story was halted. The partially-built third story on the old City Hall can be seen today beneath the present roof on the two-story wing of the building.

The plumbing in the new City Hall was installed by Joseph Vanaan. The heating system was installed by Thomas W. Parry. Both Vanaan and Parry had offices on Salem Avenue in Carbondale. The question of whether to install a direct-indirect or a direct system of heating is one that was discussed at length by the building committee of the Select and Common Councils during the summer of 1893. On July 18, 1893, both councils, meeting in joint session, agreed that a direct system of heating was best adapted to the building and not a direct-indirect system, as had originally been planned. The contract for a direct system was awarded to Thomas W. Parry, who installed a Bolton system of hot water heating (two fire pots, a large sized

CARBONDALE CITY HALL, 1892-1894. This is the cut of the proposed building designed by Binghamton architect, Truman I. Lacey. This cut was originally published on page 4 of the August 13, 1892 issue of **The Carbondale Leader**. With only minor modifications in design, this is the building that was erected under the architect's supervision by W. D. Stevens of Binghamton and George H. Tryon of Carbondale in 1892-1894.